## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 5, 2017

Licutenant General Samuel A. Greaves Director, Missile Defense Agency 5700 18<sup>th</sup> Street Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

Dear Lieutenant General Greaves:

As the Missile Defense Agency conducts and completes its Ballistic Missile Defense Review, we request your consideration of the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center as the preferred Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) for the East Coast Missile Defense System, and we request the timely completion of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Should this review conclude the deployment of a CIS is vital to our national defense against ballistic missile threats, it is our opinion the Camp Ravenna site is best-equipped to meet the needs of the interceptor and to defend the East Coast, as we shared previously in August 2016 with your predecessor Vice Admiral Syring.

The Camp Ravenna CIS has many advantages over other sites currently under consideration. As the agency's Draft EIS makes clear, Camp Ravenna's close proximity to Cleveland, Akron and Youngstown afford it access to existing transportation networks needed to bring the project to fruition. The regional road network, active rail spur, airports such as Akron-Canton Regional Airport and Youngstown Air Reserve Station, and ports such as the Port of Cleveland, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port and the Columbiana County Port can accommodate the increased traffic during both the site's construction and operational phases. Camp Ravenna is also located within 45 minutes of numerous universities, providing ample access to highly skilled engineers and other skilled professions.

Additionally, there are no historic properties on the proposed site that would hinder or prevent construction and operation, and the environmental impact on biological resources would be minor with no mitigation measures required. Moreover, there are no special use air designations over the CIS footprint, and the agency's EIS finds "an adequate workforce would be available to support a project with the scope of the potential CIS."

Should Camp Ravenna be selected as the preferred CIS, this project could create 2,300 jobs and add \$224 million in total economic value in the region during construction. It could also directly employ up to 850 people full time, as well as 340 people indirectly, once operational. The yearly estimated increase in total economic value would be \$27 million for each year of operation, representing a meaningful impact in an economically depressed region of our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your consideration of Camp Ravenna as the preferred CIS for the East Coast Missile Defense System and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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